

# Jayne trial had ele

By Larry Finley

Perry Mason of television and suspense novel renown is probably the only lawyer more famous than F. Lee Bailey.

But as defense counsel in the Silas Jayne murder trial, Bailey warned that it just doesn't happen the way it does for Perry Mason. The guilty party isn't always found out; the real murderer doesn't crack under pressure and babble a confession.

In a sense he was right. But the brother-against-brother Jayne murder trial had all the tension-packed elements of an Earl Stanley Gardner novel.

**BAILEY'S** adversary, Asst. State's Atty. Nicholas J. Moth-

erway, came closer to gauging the emotional impact of the trial on the very first day, as he stood watching the courtroom fill with spectators:

"It's going to be a good crowd," he said. "Why shouldn't it be? This is theater. It's something better and more real than they could see at a Loop movie theater. And they don't have to pay \$3."

The month-long trial, which led to the conviction of Jayne and the other two defendants, had it all — a vicious blood feud between two millionaire horsemen brothers; a murder contract; a dramatic killing; and a famous jet-set lawyer in town to do battle with the young, ambitious hometown boy.

**FIRST A FLASHBACK** to set the scene.

It is the evening of Oct. 28, 1970. Inside the \$100,000 home of Inverness horseman George Jayne, a birthday party has been going on for 15-year-old George Jr.

The family members move to the basement recreation room for bridge. The mood is happy. Outside, a paid killer kneels near a basement window and raises a hunting rifle. Through the sight he sees George Jayne; then Jayne's wife moves in the line of fire.

Jayne begins to shuffle the cards: The window explodes and the people in the basement freeze. George Jayne tries to stand, then topples over, mortally wounded. His wife drops to her knees beside him.

The characters:

**Silas Jayne** — 66 years old, curly gray hair, grandfatherly, nationally-known thoroughbred horse trainer. He was accused of paying \$30,000 for the mur-



Bailey



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der of his brother, with whom he feuded for 10 years.

In 1966, he was charged with paying a young horse dealer \$15,000 to kill his brother. The case was dropped when the dealer suddenly suffered memory lapses on the witness stand.

**George Jayne** 47 years old at the time of his death; ruggedly handsome; the younger brother who learned the horse business from Silas, only to become his fierce rival.

He frequently claimed that his brother was out to kill him. Others recount the death threats. On June 14, 1966, a pretty young rider, Miss

Cherie Rude, started the engine of George Jayne's auto. The car exploded and killed her.

**F. Lee Bailey** — 39-year-old Boston attorney; defender of "The Boston Strangler," Dr. Sam Shepard, Capt. Ernest Medina; fees into the six figures; author; publisher of "Gallery" girlie magazine.

In his autobiography he describes himself as a "renegade." Quoting Bailey on Bailey: "A hundred years ago you saw them (renegades) walking down some dusty street with a couple of guns, shooting people. That's all gone. Now it's more refined."

# ments of TV thriller

He is a lawyer first, but runs a close second as an actor. If the occasion calls for it, he is suave, fatherly, outraged, witty or vicious.

Nicholas J. Motherway and James Schreier — young assistant state's attorneys, less polished than Bailey, thrust into the roles of giant-killers, fighting for the conviction that can make their careers.

Julius Barnes, — 39, grade school education, South Side black, accused of being the gunman in the killing.

Joseph LaPlaca, 50, ex-con, close friend of Silas Jayne, accused of being the go-between in the murder plot.

Melvin Adams — the state's star witness; a non-descript kind of guy you could talk to

today and forget tomorrow; one forgery conviction on his record.

Adams was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for turning state's evidence. He matter-of-factly told how Silas Jayne hired him to kill his brother and how he (Adams) tracked Jayne around the country, finally only to back out and sub-contract the kill to Barnes.

The jury was offered two different plots. The prosecution version was simple — Silas Jayne hated George Jayne. He hired Adams, through LaPlaca, to do the killing. Adams hired Barnes to help.

The defense story was more involved. Adams was the real killer, they said. When he was caught, he feared the death penalty, so he implicated Silas

and LaPlaca (who he knew through a friend) and Barnes, who worked at the same company.

Through the help of a lot of law officials out to get a conviction, Adams lied enough to transfer the blame, the defense claimed.

THE JURY'S verdict came on Saturday: Jayne and LaPlaca guilty of conspiracy to murder, but not of murder; Barnes guilty of murder, but not conspiracy. They'll be sentenced May 25 by Criminal Court Judge Richard J. Fitzgerald.